

## Bombings in Beirut: In Washington, Reagan Is Admant

# President Declares Marines' Role Is Vital as Counter to Soviet Union in Lebanon

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commitment yet to keeping troops in Lebanon. "The option that we cannot consider is withdrawing while the mission still remains," he said. He made his statements in addressing a luncheon gathering of broadcast editors at the White House.

Secretary Shultz reminded members of Congress of their recent endorsement of the Marines' presence in Lebanon after a compromise was reached with the President over the War Powers Act. "If we as Americans decide we do not want the role and influence of a great power," he told the legislators, "then I shudder to think what kind of a world of anarchy and danger our children will inherit."

Mr. Reagan's remarks reflected some of the problems of a situation in which critics demanded withdrawal or a clearer role for the Marines, while the President argued that the American force had already made "great progress" in the Lebanese situation.

**Marines' Chief Off for Beirut**

To heighten the American military role, he said in response to an editor's question, would leave the United States fighting against Arab states, and that is not the road to peace. "At the same time, he said he would "take seriously" recommendations for sending additional troops to Lebanon if the Marine commandant, Gen. Paul X. Kelley, felt this was necessary to further the contingent's mission.

General Kelley left today for Lebanon on a Presidential directive to investigate the bombing and make recommendations for shoring up Marine defenses.

"Thank God that this country of ours can still produce young Americans who are willing to lay down their life for free men everywhere," the general said, the Marines were being blown from their beds when a terrorist detonated a truckload of explosives in the lobby of their headquarters.

The Pentagon began dispatching officers around the nation to notify families of those who died in the bomb attack. President Reagan said the bombing was a "heartbreaking" result of the explosion, said that identification of the dead was very slow because personnel records had been buried in the rubble.

"It must be a cruel and additional punishment for those people who wait in suspense," he told the broadcast editors.



The New York Times  
**WHITE HOUSE NEWS SESSION** President Reagan fielding questions from broadcast editors, right, as Robert C. McFarlane, above left, the national security adviser, listened in State Dining Room.

In describing the factors he sees at work in the violence and confusion of Lebanon, President Reagan said the bombing was "a horrifying reminder of the type of enemy that we face in many critical areas of the world today. A vicious, cowardly and ruthless. Without citing the Soviet Union by name, he complained that there were 7,000 Soviet advisers in Syria and that others were involved in Yemen and Ethiopia.

"It would be a disaster if a force took over the Middle East," he said. "And a force is ready to do that."

At the same time, Mr. Reagan echoed the suspicions of other Administration officials that the attack might have been carried out by fanatic terrorists aligned with Iran. He said there was "strong circumstantial evidence linking the attack to the destruction of the American Embassy in Beirut by a car bomb last April, a deed unofficially attributed by some officials to pro-Iranian terrorists. Mr. Reagan also

ascribed the turmoil in Lebanon to "the bands of individuals, literally criminal-minded."

As Mr. Reagan and his advisers sought additional information on the Beirut bombing and considered further reaction to it, critics in Congress demanded a clearer statement from the White House of the Marines' mission.

**Basic Miscalculation Seen**

"The Administration made a fundamental miscalculation in foreign policy," said the Senate minority leader, Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia. "On the one hand we're over there as peacekeepers, but we're perceived as being on the side of Gemayal," he said, speaking of the Lebanese President. "It must not become our war," said Senator Nancy L. Kassebaum, Republican of Kansas, after a private briefing of the Senate by Secretary Shultz. "It must not become a fight between the Syrians and ourselves."

In defending his policy, President



Reagan said the Marines' mission was "quite clear" and their participation in the multinational force had already helped ease Lebanon's problems. He defined the mission as encouraging the departure of all foreign forces, including those of Israel, Syria and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

"And then to have a stabilizing force while a government could be established in Lebanon and their military could then acquire the capability necessary to reinsuring their control over their own borders," he added.

**Options Suggested**

Mr. Reagan did not say precisely what strategic steps he might order to protect the marines more effectively. But he said the options included moving the headquarters from onshore to one of the American warships patrolling off Beirut, or making "improvements in the actual defensive structure."

## Magazines Delay Press Runs

Time and Newsweek magazines delayed their press runs this week to present what spokesmen for the magazines said were their latest-breaking cover stories ever: the death of at least 186 marines and sailors in the bombing at the Beirut airport.

Time magazine's press run of about 5 million copies was delayed from Sunday morning to yesterday morning, according to Ray Cave, managing editor. A headline on the new covers reads: "Carnage in Beirut: Mideast Madness Hits the Marines." Mr. Cave would not disclose what was shown on the cover of the original copies, all of which were destroyed, but he said the change in cover stories cost the magazine about \$300,000.

Newsweek delayed its press run by 18 hours Sunday to present a cover story entitled "The Marine Massacre."

Newsweek caught nearly 2.5 million copies, or 70 percent, of its 3.5 million copy press run. The cover story on the remainder of its copies is entitled "The Medical-Industrial Complex."

Maynard Parker, editor of Newsweek, said, "This is the latest cover story that Newsweek has ever put together from scratch on a Sunday. The last time Newsweek changed a cover on a Sunday was when Ford pardoned Nixon, and then we had a cover picture of Nixon already engraved at the plants."

U.S. News & World Report went to press at midnight Friday, according to Marvin Stone, editor in chief, before the terrorist attack in Beirut. The cover story on its 2.2 million-copy issue this week deals with "the controversy over water supplies in this country." Mr. Stone said.

# Transcript of President Reagan's News Conference on the Attack in Beirut

Following is a transcript of President Reagan's news conference yesterday in Washington, as recorded by The New York Times:

## OPENING STATEMENT

Good afternoon. And given what has happened in Lebanon, I've put aside the remarks that I had prepared to give you this afternoon. I'd like to read you this statement.

Yesterday's acts of terrorism in Beirut, which killed so many young American and French servicemen, were a horrifying reminder of the type of enemy that we face in many critical areas of the world today — vicious, cowardly and ruthless.

Words can never convey the depth of compassion that we feel for the brave men and for their loved ones. Many Americans are wondering why we must keep our forces in Lebanon.

Well, the reason they must stay is until the situation is under control is quite clear. We have vital interests in Lebanon. And our actions in Lebanon are in the cause of world peace. With our allies, France and Italy, we're part of a multinational peacekeeping force seeking a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and from the Beirut area while a new Lebanese Government undertakes to restore sovereignty throughout the country.

By promoting peace in Lebanon we strengthen the forces for peace throughout the Middle East. This is not a Republican or a Democratic goal, but one that all Americans share. Peace in Lebanon is key to the region's stability now and in the future.

To the extent that the prospect for

future stability is heavily influenced by the presence of our forces, it is central to our credibility on a global scale. We must not allow international criminals and thugs such as these to undermine the peace in Lebanon.

The struggle for peace is indivisible. We cannot pick and choose the type of enemy that we face. We can only determine how. If it's lost in one place, all of our loss. If others feel confident that they can intimidate us and our allies in Lebanon to accept the terms of a peace that will become more bold elsewhere, if Lebanon ends up under the tyranny of forces hostile to the West, not only our strategic position in the eastern Mediterranean be threatened but also the stability of the entire Middle East including the vast source areas of the Arabian Peninsula.

In conjunction with our multinational force partners, we're trying to measure and strengthen the capabilities of our forces to defend themselves. The United States will not be involved in Lebanon in the recent past. We have strong circumstantial evidence linking the perpetrators of the attack recently — the bombing of the embassy in Beirut last April.

Every effort will be made to find the criminals responsible for this act of terrorism so this despicable act will not be repeated.

And now I know you have some questions.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### The Choices for U.S.

Q. What are the options? Do you increase the number of troops in Lebanon? Do you withdraw the troops in Lebanon? What do you consider the options to be?

A. The option that we cannot consider is withdrawing while the mission still remains. And the option of a mission, contrary to what some people have intimated in the last 24 hours or so and it is tied in with the effort that we launched more than a year ago to try and bring peace to the total area of the Middle East because of its strategic importance to the free world, not just the United States.

I couldn't give you a time on this. The options are, well, I have sent, as of this morning, General Kelly, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, on his way to Lebanon to review again what we can do with regard to improving the defensive measures, the safety measures, for the Marines who are stationed there. And we're looking at every possible option in that regard. But the mission remains and it remains as yet unfilled, although there's been tremendous success so far.

I'll take the gentleman and then I'll take you.

### The Marine Mission

Q. Mr. President, Bill Applegate

the P.L.O. militias inside Beirut were shelling back — the casualties were hundreds of civilians every day, dying and being grievously wounded — so we recognized that what we had to resolve first was this issue. To get Syria, which had crossed from the other border, get Syria, get Israel, get the P.L.O. organization out of Lebanon. And then to have a stabilizing force while a government could be established in Lebanon and their military could then acquire the capability necessary to reinsuring their control over their own borders.

And this was why the multinational force went in. To provide that stability so that the Lebanese forces moved out as the other forces — the Israelis and the Syrians — left, there could be maintenance of order behind them.

Now that mission remains, except that, and it did have measures of success. The P.L.O. militias, as you remember, were shipped out of Lebanon. Some of those, we fear, have infiltrated back in mainly by way of Syria now. But that was accomplished. A government was established. The Lebanese forces moved out. And we've, we think that they have, they don't have the size yet (to when they could take over, let's say, the policing of that area and of the airport, and still have enough manpower to go out and restore order as they're supposed to.

So that mission remains. And as of now, they have finally agreed upon a date and a place for a meeting in which the Government of Lebanon is going to try and bring in representatives of the hostile factions within Lebanon to broaden the base of the Government.

So we think that the goal is worthy. And we think that great progress has been made that would not have been made if it were not for the multinational force that we have.

Now I can take you.

### A Message to Peace

Q. Mr. President, Susan Hutchings, KIRO-TV from Seattle, I'm a journalist on the staff of a major American newspaper. And as such I am personally grieved over the loss of life. I am wondering what message you can give to Americans who are frustrated with the loss of life in a region that historically has not known peace, and yet our men are over there as peacekeepers.

A. I wish there were an instant answer here that would resolve all your concerns. You didn't tell me about that one when we were having lunch here. I understand your concern. I understand all Americans' concern and I have to say that I don't know of anything that is worse than the job I have, and having to do the job that I have made as a result of these snippings that have taken place in the past.

I wish it could be without hazard. But the alternative is to look at this region, which, as I say, is vital. Our allies in Western Europe, the Japanese,

it would be a disaster if a force took over the Middle East, as it is ready to do that, as witness what has taken place in Yemen, in Ethiopia and now the forces that, some several thousand that are there, in Syria. The free world cannot stand by and see that that happen.

Yes, this has been an area torn by strife over the centuries. And yet, not too many years ago, before the kind of breaking, Lebanon was a very peaceful, peaceful nation that was kind of known as the gateway to the East. And we believe it can be again. The records and the personal knowledge of the men who were not there at war with Israel, then Egypt and yet we've seen Egypt and Israel come to a peace treaty and Israel give up the Sinai and so forth that it conquered in war. We have to believe that this we must strive for. Because the alternative could be disaster for all of our world.

Yes, way back there, I've been staying up front too much.

### Use of More Force

Q. Mr. President, I'm Ronald Post with KRON in San Francisco. I want to ask you, you've addressed now several times the issue that we cannot get out of the Middle East. But would you address the other argument that you're not going to get out, then let's just put Marines back in to replace those who have been killed and wounded to do exactly the same thing in the same place, but if you're going to a job, go into Lebanon and do it with some real force, which is another argument that I've raised.

A. But, you see, what that entails, and that is the difficult thing, we would then be engaged in the combat. We would be fighting against Arab states. And that is not the road to peace. We're still thinking in terms of that long-range peace.

Lebanon must be resolved and resolved within itself its own problems. Then, and incidentally, not much attention has been paid to the diplomatic process that's been going on for years and years and before, round the clock. And we now are seeking a replacement for Ambassador McFarlane, who's with us here today, who is now national security adviser, but someone to replace him. But he could tell you, and I used to sit here feeling guilty, because I was scheduled to go to Damascus to Beirut to Tel Aviv. And hours and hours of meetings. They have all led to this present cease-fire, to this Government that is now in Lebanon and that is effort to enlarge that Government.

So we're keeping on with that process. But to join in the present mission of the multinational force, and remember there are four nations involved there, enlarging their forces, if it would help with the mission they're performing, would be one thing.

But to join in the combat and become a part of the combative force, actually all we would really be doing would be increasing the number of targets. And this is, and risking really the start of overall conflict and world war.

No. Our mission, I think, makes sense. I think it has proven itself so

far. The tragedy is coming not really from the warping force. It is coming from little bands of individuals, literally criminal-minded, who now see in the disaster that's going on an opportunity to do what they want to do. And we are, we're going to make every effort we can to minimize the risk but also to find those responsible.

Yes?

### Notifying Relatives

Q. Lilly Flores-Vella, KMTV in Corpus Christi, Tex. I'd like to know what the records of the personal efforts are under way to identify the casualties and those missing and how are the relatives being notified about that?

A. You have touched upon what is a heartbreaking part of this particular incident.

That was the headquarters building. There were more than 200 men sleeping in that building when this occurred. The records of the personal efforts are under way to identify the casualties and those missing and how are the relatives being notified about that?

A. Yes, I do. And I can't because I have a secret trust on account of I'm not supposed to know what I have anyone. (General laughter.) So I can't buy anything like that. But yes, I think this recovery is solid and I think that it is based on something that we've never had in any of the previous recessions — there have been about right since World War II. And every one of them prior to this was treated with a quick fix, an artificial stimulant by Government spending and money supply and so forth and if you'll look back at the history of them, every one of them was followed within a matter of two or three years by another one and each time inflation was higher and unemployment was greater than before.

But this one — we have brought inflation, as you've probably been told in the briefings already, down from two years of double-digit and even figures as high as 17 percent, to where for the last 12 months it has been 2.6 percent, which is the lowest 12-month average in 17 years. And I think that what we're seeing there in the stock market, it flurries a little

bit, goes up but then every once in a while there's some profit-taking and it drops a few points.

But I think one figure that's been ignored and maybe all of you can treat with it, just a week or so ago, it was announced that we were up now to 70, more than 78 percent of our industrial capacity is now at work. We were way down, far below that to where there was just unused industrial capacity because there wasn't any demand for the product. But this is getting practically up to prosperous times to have that much of our capacity used.

### New Safety Measures

Q. One more question, Mr. President.

A. I can't ignore that, that look. You. Q. Jean Enerson, KING television in Seattle. You said that General Kelly, who is on his way to the Middle East, will recommend more safety measures. If he recommends more troops sent in, will you do that? And what if, what other safety measures are you considering?

A. Well, if this were recommended on the basis that their mission, as I say, could be furthered by some difference in the size of the mission, I would certainly take seriously the recommendation of the man who is the Commandant of the entire Marine Corps.

There are a number of other things to look at — options that have been presented. We know, for example, that we have to follow, to find new headquarters, an operational post for the headquarters, because that was totally destroyed. One of the options being considered is, could part of the support services of that kind be stationed on one of our ships that are off the coast, one of our missile cruisers. More improvements in the actual defensive structure. There're any number of options and that's why an expert is going over there to come back and tell us what can be done.

### Final Comments

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you, Mr. President.

REAGAN: Carna has told me that I can't take any more on account of the time is up. Carna said that that was a, that had, did say that that was the last one wasn't it?

UNIDENTIFIED: I said that was the last one.

REAGAN: And I can give you the best reason in the world why I've got to leave. The President of Togo is in my office in just about three minutes and I should be there before he gets there to say hello to him. But your remarks about treating with the regional press. Believe me it is a great pleasure and I wish there were, I'm going to tell them that next time they've got to schedule any luncheons like this for about a half an hour extra or give me some free time following it so that I can run over, if I want to, because you do ask questions and I learn as much from your questions as, maybe more, than you learn from my answers. And it's been a great pleasure to have all of you here. God bless you all and thank you, coming.